

SCHOOL HEALTH MANUAL INTRODUCTION

MAINE SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

and

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

with input from

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,

MAINE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

AND OTHER RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

The School Health Manual is available electronically and is under continuous revision. Each section of the Manual is available as a separate electronic file available at www.maine.gov/education/sh.

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INTRODUCTION

The School Health Manual is intended to provide guidance for school nursing practice and is designed for school health services to include:

- Current laws and rules, policies, and procedures affecting the health of students
- Information and resources to enhance school nurse practice

The Manual was first published in 1974. The Maine School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) and the Maine Department of Education (MeDOE), working with personnel from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (MeCDC) regularly updates the manual.

Healthy children attend school regularly and perform better than children with poor health. (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1746-1561.1997.tb06309.x/abstract>) Children must feel well if they are going to be active and successful learners. School-age children experience increased social, emotional, and physical challenges. It is essential these health related concerns be recognized and adequately addressed to ensure that children reach their full potential.

Children with medical conditions with or without technological health needs have the legal right to access health-related services within the school setting. School Nurses are essential to manage the health care needs of students and are certified by the Department of Education under a 524 Certification.

SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND

The School Nurse Advisory Committee began in 1974, with recognition by Commissioners of the Department of Educational (MeDOE) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The function was to review existing state-level programs and health services in schools, and make recommendations for improvements. Membership included School and Public Health Nurses and was jointly staffed by DOE and DHHS. The report and suggested policies developed by the Committee were sent to Superintendents in August 1977.

July 1977-School Health Board of Directors was developed from the Committee, and endorsed by Commissioners of Department of Educational and Cultural Services (DECS) and Department of Human Services (DHS). The membership

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was broadened to include the Department of Mental Health and Corrections, physicians, school nurses, health educators, teachers and school administrators. The Board met at least quarterly to review legislation, policies, procedures and departmental grants related to school health programs and made recommendations to the Commissioners. The Board worked to provide ongoing educational programs, primarily through the Department of Human Services (Public Health Nursing, and Maternal and Child Health).

August-1985 School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) emerged from the Board, with a memo of recognition from Commissioners of DECS, DHS, and Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

July-1988, Governor's Cabinet, Interdepartmental Council agreed that SHAC would remain independent.

1992-Staff support from Department of Education (DOE) was lost with deletion of the School Nurse Coordinator position. SHAC continued to meet monthly under the direction of DHHS Maternal and Child Health Services staff.

January 2001-the School Nurse Consultant position was reinstated.

ISSUES ADDRESSED BY SHAC OVER THE YEARS

- Standards of practice and policy guidelines for school health services
- Ongoing review and approval of contents of the school health manual
- Training programs such as HIV and Blood Borne Pathogens, medication administration, and concussion management
- Immunizations, including recommendations on legislation and rules, updates on practice, annual reporting and suggestions regarding implementation of programs, including varicella guidelines, 2006
- All health screening legislation, rules, and protocols initiated and revised
- Study to determine the need and to establish criteria for the first Position of School Nurse Coordinator and delineation of need and functions to successfully re-establish the position
- Survey of medically fragile children in schools, 1991
- Intensive work on administration of medications in schools 1997-present
 - A comprehensive study of the medications that are being administered in schools during 1999, 2006, and 2014
 - Train-the-Trainer program for school nurses was initiated for medication administration by unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP)
 - Unlicensed school personnel training program developed and implemented in 2001

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- Medication field trip policy/procedure in collaboration with Maine Board of Pharmacy, 2001
- Created school sports and physical examination protocol and sample form
- Dissemination and clarification of health and medical information to school administrators
- Establish relationships to implement Coordinated School Health Programs
- Disseminated through the DOE web, the Maine School Emergency Manual-2001
- Guidelines for delegation/oversight of health tasks by unlicensed school personnel-2002
- Diabetes Goes to School Guidelines for School Nurses- 2005
- School-located vaccine clinics (SLVC) in the school setting, reestablished in 2009 in response to H1N1- present
- Asthma Toolkit and Training Resources - 2010
- Restraint and Seclusion Rulemaking - 2012
- Concussion protocols and website development – 2013
- Position statement for school nursing in collaboration with the Maine Board of Nursing – 2014
- Medication Administration Laws and Rule changes - 2016
- Anaphylaxis protocols and training - 2016